

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN JANUARY 2006

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in January was 2.57 million metric tons (Mt), which was slightly higher than in the previous month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Production in January was 16% lower than in January 2005.

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in January was 2.53 Mt, a small decrease from that of December. Total sold or used in January was 11% lower than in January 2005. U.S. producer stocks were slightly lower than in December.

Imports of phosphate rock were estimated based on U.S. Census Bureau figures and data from the Moroccan producer,

because Census suppressed some phosphate rock import data for Morocco. The Moroccan producer supplies more than 99% of the phosphate rock imported by the United States. In addition, Census trade data were not available for the current month. The USGS estimated that imports of phosphate rock have averaged about 217,000 metric tons per month in 2005.

Domestic apparent consumption for 2005 was 39.1 Mt, a 2% increase over that of 2004. Apparent consumption was based on sold or used data, plus imports minus exports.

TABLE 1  
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks <sup>2</sup>
2005:			
January	3,060	2,830	7,130
February	2,860	2,790	7,100
March	3,160	3,240	6,990
April	3,000	3,160	6,910
May	3,480	3,070	7,310
June	3,100	3,050	7,360
July	3,350	3,500	7,220
August	3,480	3,490	7,140
September	3,420	3,220	7,410
October	2,780	2,840	7,410
November	2,710	2,790	7,290
December	2,520	2,580	7,200
January-December	34,400	34,000	XX
2006:			
January	2,570	2,530	7,240

XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2  
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK<sup>1,2</sup>

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value
2004:		
December	150	5,470
January-December	1,560	56,100
Total year <sup>3</sup>	2,500	91,300
2005: <sup>4</sup>		
January	140	5,160
February	143	6,190
March	48	1,300
April	183	8,440
May	227	11,000
June	184	8,420
July	103	4,840
August	66	1,810
September	158	5,520
October	159	6,290
November	195	7,200
December	112	4,120
January-December	1,720	70,300
Total year <sup>3</sup>	2,630	107,000

<sup>1</sup>Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

<sup>2</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>3</sup>Includes an estimate for data suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

<sup>4</sup>Data for the current month were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data on the majority of phosphate rock imports from Morocco were suppressed by Census.

TABLE 3  
COMPARATIVE U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2004	2005	2006 <sup>e, 1</sup>
Marketable production:			
Florida and North Carolina	30.3	W	W
Idaho and Utah	5.4	W	W
Total <sup>2</sup>	35.7	36.9	30.3
Sold or used by producers:			
Florida and North Carolina	30.8	W	W
Idaho and Utah	5.0	W	W
Total <sup>2</sup>	35.8	36.5	29.8
Yearend stocks	7.0	7.2	7.2
Exports reported by producers	--	--	--
Average value per ton	--	--	--
Imports for consumption <sup>e</sup>	2.5	2.6	2.6
Average value per ton	\$36.50	\$40.87	NA
Apparent consumption <sup>e, 2, 3</sup>	38.3	39.1	32.4

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Annualized data.

<sup>2</sup>Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

<sup>3</sup>Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports.